

ABSTRACT

Contact data in a database for a wireless personal communication device are remotely updatable from, or transferable between, a computer system using a radio frequency connection. New contact data, and changes or updates to existing contact data, are input at the computer system or the personal communication device and may be utilized in the personal communication device to initiate contact with, or establish the identity of, actual or potential communicants. Contact data including name, telephone number, address, sound or image information associated with actual or potential communicants is transferred between a computer system and a personal communication device utilizing a radio frequency connection. The personal communication device can be a cellular telephone, PDA or pager, and may also include interfaces for local programming of contact data from a removable keyboard. Additionally, updates and transfers between a computer system and a personal communication device may be accomplished utilizing a serial, parallel or infrared interface.

A message originator sends a picture or video message to a message center along with caller identifying information. The message is stored in a memory and transmitted to a wireless picture phone, PDA or portable computing device, or stored at the message center in a memory or hard disk drive for later retrieval by a message recipient. The picture or video message may be encoded, encrypted or compressed prior to receipt by the wireless device.